

**District IV Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
November 3, 2004**  
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The **District IV Advisory Board Meeting** was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Stanley Neighborhood Center. In attendance were eight (8) District Advisory Board members, four (5) staff and approximately forty (40) citizens with twenty-four (24) signing in.

**Members Present**

Jim Benton  
Josh Blick  
Damon Burrows  
Mary Cockburn  
Tom Engelmann  
Michael Gisick  
Council Member Paul Gray  
Ed Koon  
Doug Leeper

**Staff Present**

Jim Armour, Public Works  
Officer Tammie Busher, Police  
Larry Foos, Parks and Recreation  
Kelli Glassman, City Manager's Office  
Kurt Schroder, Office of Central Inspection

**Members Absent**

Jerry McGinty  
Marjorie Griffith

**Guests**

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**Order of Business**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Doug Leeper (Gisick)** moved to approve the agenda for the November 3, 2004 meeting. The motion passed 8-0.

**Tom Engelmann (Benton)** moved to approve the minutes for the October 6, 2004 meeting. The motion passed 8-0.

**Public Agenda**

*The Public Agenda allows members of the public to present matters to the District Advisory Board. Each presentation is limited to a period of five minutes unless extended by the Board.*

**1. Scheduled Items**

No items were presented.

**2. Off-Agenda Items**

No items were presented.

## Staff Presentations

### **3. Parks and Recreation Ralph Wultz Tennis Complex**

**Larry Foos, Parks and Recreation**, stated that the Board will hear two presentations to build and manage an indoor tennis complex at the existing Ralph Wulz Riverside Tennis Facility. The City has agreed to provide \$2.5 million for construction costs with a match of \$2.5 million from the proposing agencies. The City would be the property owner and the selected agency would manage and operate the facility. The year-round recreation center would serve children and families of all ages, especially those of special needs, including at-risk children and individuals with disabilities. It is hoped that this facility would also increase tournament play by hosting professional tennis events and exhibitions, as well as, high school and college tennis events. Friends of the Riverside Tennis Association (FRTA) and Genesis Health Clubs both submitted a response to the City's Request For Proposal for this project.

In the first presentation, representatives of Genesis Health Clubs included **Rodney Steven, owner, Greg Ferris, project consultant** and **Mark Haney, project architect**. **Mr. Steven** said such programs are needed in the community to promote children's health, especially considering the increase in childhood obesity. Examples were given of Genesis' proven ability to build and maintain successful fitness programs, receive grant funding and maintain a program working with elementary schools to provide tennis clinics and involvement with existing school physical education programs. No membership would be required to use the tennis courts, but a fee would be charged after the first free visit. Genesis plans to fund any financial shortfalls incurred by the facility through membership dues to a fitness center also planned at the complex. By operating on an economies of scale, Genesis believes that it can run the fitness and tennis facilities together more profitably to grow the sport of tennis and contribute to the City's economic development. **Mr. Steven** stated that there are private businesses that own tennis facilities in Topeka, Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

**Tom Engelmann** asked what will happen to the future of the proposed facility if Genesis comes under new ownership. **Mr. Steven** replied that Genesis is a family owned business that will stay in Wichita. The City will own this facility, so it will have the option of choosing a new partner to do business with if it desires.

**Engelmann** asked how much seating will be available for exhibitions and tournaments. **Mr. Haney** stated that the facility will hold approximately 500 people with two options for seating, depending upon the size of the event.

**Doug Leeper** asked how much outdoor tennis court fees will be for the new facility. **Mr. Steven** answered that depending upon the time of day, outdoor tennis court fees will range from \$8 to \$15. **Mr. Ferris** added that scholarships given under the establishment of the non-profit Wichita Tennis Foundation will help underwrite some of these costs.

**Leeper** asked where most of the revenue will be generated for this facility. **Mr. Steven** explained that most revenue generated from this facility will come from the fitness center. **Leeper** further stated that he is not in favor of losing park space for other use of this land by a for-profit facility. **Mr. Haney** explained that the Genesis proposal meets the RFP requirements outlined by the City.

**Leeper** asked if the City did not contribute funding to this project, if Genesis would still be interested in building this facility. **Mr. Ferris** replied that without City funding, Genesis would pursue this project at this location.

**Michael Gisick** asked about the size of the fitness center in this complex as compared to existing Genesis facilities. **Mr. Steven** stated that the top floor of the facility will be dedicated to the fitness center and will be approximately 9,600 square feet. The Genesis facility on West 13<sup>th</sup> is 18,800 square feet.

Additional comments by the Board concerning Genesis' proposal include:

- The DAB requests that the City's Law Department research how separation of funds generated by both the fitness center and the tennis area would work since they would operate under the same building and staff.
- Genesis' proposal might negatively impact other tennis facilities in the community.

In following, the FRTA proposal made by **Buff Farrow** focused on partnership with other community agencies to provide tennis programs for children and families. The programs would be based on an existing program hosted by the YMCA and local schools to provide transportation, tennis lessons and equipment, and other after-school activities (computers, crafts, etc.). They propose to negotiate and share the costs of operation and management of this facility with the City and expect that revenues will exceed expenditures in two years.

**Cockburn** asked how the kids will work with computers and other educational equipment in this proposal. **Mr. Farrow** stated that there will be space for tables with crafts, computers and other equipment for the children to use.

**Cockburn** also asked if there were scholarships or a foundation already established for FRTA's financial contribution to this project. **Mr. Farrow** stated that FRTA's financial contribution to this proposal is secured through contingent pledges of funds from other organizations.

**Engelmann** asked if FRTA is proposing to cut funding for some already established tennis programs. **Mr. Farrow** replied that FRTA's proposal will provide programs and support for existing tennis facilities.

Additional comments made by Board members regarding the FRTA proposal include:

- FRTA is a non-profit organization, which is preferred to a for-profit organization when allotting use of public land.
- FRTA will partner with other area non-profit organizations for this project, allowing more resources to be devoted to the success of this project.
- FRTA will be eligible for more grant funding due to its non-profit status.
- In FRTA's proposal, the City will most likely bear the financial burden if this facility generates a shortfall.
- The DAB is unsure of FRTA's ability to secure financial funds for their contribution to this project.
- FRTA's proposal will include recreational programs for disabled youth.
- The DAB is unsure if the volunteer staff for this facility designated in FRTA's proposal would have the capacity to provide the quality of services provided by a full-time, employed staff.

Public comments regarding these proposals are as follows:

**M.S. Mitchell, 1215 Forrest**, voiced support for FRTA based on the following points:

- There is no other site with a historic tennis association in South Central Kansas.
- There is no other organization that can add the assets the FRTA do, including volunteers, professionals, financial supporters and nationwide partnerships.
- FRTA's proposal brings the vision of bringing tennis to all populations at the 70 or so existing tennis courts in Wichita with the aim of encouraging everyone to learn, improve and excel at tennis.
- An indoor tennis facility is needed to continue public interest and activity at Riverside Park.

**Rick Nunn, 1610 W. 13<sup>th</sup>**, stated that he supports the Genesis proposal because the City can use private money to secure good professional tennis instructors and employees and so the City will not have to subsidize this project in the future if it is unsuccessful.

**Ana Rodriguez, 2430 Payne**, stated that Genesis requires parental involvement in these activities, which she feels is important.

**John Sear** remarked that Genesis is a quality operation that will compliment and maintain Riverside to keep it beautiful.

**Simon Norman** clarified that grants are available to profit and non-profit organizations to assist in financing this project.

The DAB Members also voiced the following additional questions and comments:

**Council member Gray** asked if tents will be provided for the outdoor courts. **Foos** stated that tents for outdoor tennis courts were considered, but that it is not cost effective. **Bobby Harris, 9700 Birch**, stated that an alternative, more cost effective tent cover was considered, but was eliminated when it was decided that the tent covers were also required to be aesthetically pleasing.

**Ed Koon** stated that he would like to see a list of the things that the City expects to achieve with this project and that the ultimate goal of this project should be to create a public facility available to all citizens. **Council member Gray** explained that the RFP created for this project was written ambiguously to allow more organizations the opportunity to respond to this RFP.

- The DAB is unsure of the actual need for this facility.
- Both projects will increase the use of recreation facilities in this area.

**Action: No formal recommendation was made by the DAB at the meeting, but DAB members suggested that both organizations work together on this project to utilize the strengths of each proposal.**

#### **4. Community Police**

**Officer Tammie Busher, Police**, stated that they have been working to educate citizens on motorized scooter laws. **Cockburn** asked if this education was taking place throughout the entire district. **Officer Busher** stated that this education is taking place in the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Beat, as well as, on the west side of the district. **Officer Busher** further stated that motor scooter law enforcement can be difficult because those who violate the laws are usually gone by the time an officer responds to a complaint. **Engelmann** asked who he could contact on the west side of the district concerning this issue. **Officer Busher** stated that **Officer Steven** can assist with any concerns on the west side of the district.

**Officer Busher** reminded the group that if there are continued problems at the Flea Market on west Meridian, citizens should call 9-1-1 to receive help addressing those problems.

**Leeper** informed the group that a police call made at 42<sup>nd</sup> and Hoover was dispatched to the Sedgwick County Sheriff's department, but he thought that this area was still within the City limits. **Officer Busher** stated that she works in the south part of the district and was not sure where the boundaries in the area **Mr. Leeper** referred to are drawn. **Officer Busher** further commented that police are working with OCI to do repairs across from Osage Park at the 3200 corner of Everett since it is causing safety concerns.

**Cockburn** asked if there has been an increase in gang activity in the district. **Officer Busher** stated that gang activity has remained about the same. **Michael Gisick** stated that there have only been two known gang members identified in this area.

**Officer Busher** said that police have just finished running radar in the area of 35<sup>th</sup> and Glenn.

**Council member Gray** thanked **Officer Busher** for her presentation.

**Action: Receive & File**

#### **5. Meridian Improvements Between 31<sup>st</sup> Street South and Pawnee**

**Jim Armour, Public Works,** and **Steve Lackey, Tran Systems,** listed the improvements that will be taking place on Meridian between 31<sup>st</sup> Street South and Pawnee, which Tran Systems has been hired to design. These include:

- A four-lane facility with left turn lanes at 27<sup>th</sup> Street, 31<sup>st</sup> Street and Pawnee
- Concrete pavement, storm sewers, sidewalks, new concrete driveways
- Signalized pedestrian/school crossing at Cassado Circle.
- New pedestrian bridge at Graber Street
- New intersection at Pawnee with improved turning radius on the southwest corner and new signal poles and mast arms.
- Wider traffic lanes in some areas.

The total budget for this project is estimated at 3,809,000. Federal Transportation funds will contribute 2,254,000, with the remaining \$1,555,000 funded through City funds. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2005. An additional \$3.8 million could come from Kansas Department Of Transportation and federal funds.

**Council member Gray** expressed his gratitude to **Mr. Lackey**, former City Public Works Director, for expediting the completion of this project by two or three years.

**Cockburn** asked how long it will take to complete this project. **Armour** replied that bids on this project are scheduled to be opened by the first part of March and that the project should be completed nine to ten months after that.

**Cockburn** asked if these improvements will be similar to those being done at 29<sup>th</sup> Street North and Rock Road. **Armour** stated that in the 21<sup>st</sup> and Rock project, the old pavement was not completely removed. This project will require complete removal of old pavement.

**Gisick** asked if this project will be partially funded through special assessments. **Armour** responded that this project will be completely funded through federal and City funds with no special assessments.

One citizen present asked how this project will affect drainage north of Pawnee. **Mr. Lackey** stated that drainage in this area has been a concern for a long time and that this project should not impact it greatly.

**John Orsfield, 1305 Greenfield**, asked if the pavement will be redone in this area. **Armour** replied that all pavement in the project area will be redone.

**Action: Gisick (Leeper) made a motion to approve the proposed Meridian improvements between 31<sup>st</sup> Street South and Pawnee. Motion passed 8-0.**

#### **6. Reintegration of Offenders Action Plan**

**Margie Phelps, Kansas Department of Corrections** and **Kurt Schroeder, Office of Central Inspection**, presented the item. Each year, approximately 1,500 offenders return to the community after they have finished their prison term. As a result from a Wichita Assembly, an implementation plan for safe reintegration of area offenders was developed and presented to the City Council on April 6, 2004. The City Council expressed concern with the pilot project and disbanding the Alternative Correctional Housing Board (ACHB). Therefore, the City Council referred the item to District Advisory Boards for further comment and recommendation.

Through city, county and state funds, a pilot project will be designed to work with the highest risk offenders a year before their release to determine a preparation plan for their re-entry into society to address housing, and other needs. Job preparedness, marketing and development will be addressed by keeping a list of those companies who have hired offenders in the past. From this list, an offender's job skills and needs will be assessed in order to make a safe and mutually beneficial employment match. Federal money will be available to train these offenders. These offenders will be monitored until no longer necessary and data will be collected on this program and reported back to governing bodies to determine the success of this plan.

**Ms. Phelps** also stated that the taskforce is not recommending the disbanding of the ACHB and that this has been listed as a taskforce recommendation in error. **Schroeder** briefly explained the function of the ACHB for further clarification.

**Council member Gray** asked what the City's financial contribution to this pilot program will be. **Ms. Phelps** replied that the City would invest \$275,000 per year.

**Doug Leerper** asked if these services will be redundant and if the program is voluntary. **Ms. Phelps** stated that these services are not being provided elsewhere currently and that program participation is voluntary.

**Michael Gisick** asked how many people will go through this program a year. **Ms. Phelps** stated that about 150 to 200 offenders will complete this program per year. **Cockburn** asked what the rate of offenders returning to prison after release is. **Ms. Phelps** stated that this information is not broken down by county, but usually about 50% of offenders return to prison within the first year; 75% of high risk offenders return to prison for 90 days or more and 14% of offenders commit and get convicted for new felonies.

**Engelmann** asked if this has been done anywhere else. Ms. Phelps replied that each state has been given grant money for this purpose and that funds were given to Shawnee County, KS, where a offender re-entry model was successfully implemented.

**Gisick** asked if there will be a waiting list to participate in this program. **Ms. Phelps** explained that there will not be a waiting list for this program because the program begins a year before the offenders release, allowing the proper amount of time to accomplish the program objectives.

**Gisick** asked who will oversee this program. Ms. Phelps said that the details on supervision of this program will be left to the City, County and State to decide.

**Gisick** asked the period of time the City will be committed to this program initially. **Ms. Phelps** commented that the program will be piloted for three years.

**Gisick** asked the specific budget for this program. **Ms. Phelps** replied that the concept of this program is being presented to the District Advisory Board and that financial details will be determined by the City Council.

**Action: Leeper (Benton) made a motion to not support the development of an offender re-entry pilot project and that the Alternative Correctional Housing Board not be disbanded. Motion was defeated 2-6. (Blick, Burrows, Cockburn, Engelmann, Gisick, Koon)**

**Gisick (Engelmann) made a subsequent motion and by a vote of 6-2 (Leeper:Benton), the Board recommended support for the development of an offender re-entry pilot project and that the Alternative Correctional Housing Board not be disbanded.**

### **Board Agenda**

7. Due to time constraints, no issues were presented by the Board members or Council Member Gray.

**Council Member Gray** asked for any further issues. With none presented, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Brandon Kauffman  
District IV Neighborhood Assistant**



**Guest**

Angie Brittain  
Buck Cates  
Greg Ferris  
Lindsey Hagen  
Martin Hanney  
Bobby Harris  
Humberto Jimenez  
M.S. Mitchell  
Simon Norman  
Monica Nutt  
Rick Nutt  
John Orsfield  
Joe Perez  
Margie Phelps  
Ana Rodriguez  
Robert Scheidt  
John Sear  
Carol Skaff  
Rodney Steven  
Juliene Steven

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